

## **I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claims 1-77.** Canceled.

**Claim 78 (Currently Amended).** A composition comprising an oligonucleotide with at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with (TTAGGG)<sub>n</sub> ~~and at least one nonhydrolyzable internucleotide linkage~~, wherein at least the first x 3'-nucleotide linkages are hydrolyzable by a 3' to 5' nuclease, wherein n=1 to 20, and wherein x is from ~~about 0~~ 1 to ~~about 10~~ 20.

**Claim 79 (Original).** The composition of claim 78 wherein the 3' to 5' nuclease is Mre11.

**Claim 80 (Original).** The composition of claim 78 wherein the oligonucleotide has at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with TTAGGG.

**Claim 81 (Currently Amended).** The composition of claim 80 wherein the oligonucleotide is GTTAGGGTTAG (SEQ ID NO. 2).

**Claim 82.** Canceled.

~~The composition of claim 78 wherein the nonhydrolyzable linkage is a phosphorothioate.~~

**Claim 83.** Canceled.

**Claim 84 (New).** A method for inhibiting a 3' to 5' nuclease, the method comprising administering to a cell an oligonucleotide with at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with (TTAGGG)<sub>n</sub>, wherein n=1 to 20, wherein at least the first x 3'-nucleotide linkages are hydrolyzable by the 3' to 5' nuclease and wherein x is from 1 to 20.

**Claim 85 (New).** The method of claim 84 wherein the 3' to 5' nuclease is Mre11.

**Claim 86 (New).** The method of claim 84 wherein the oligonucleotide has at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with TTAGGG.

**Claim 87 (New).** The use of claim 84 wherein the oligonucleotide is GTTAGGGTTAG (SEQ ID NO. 2).